

NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII, Issue No. 7

January 2012

All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Montanans Launch Recall of Senators Who Approved NDAA 2011

When the Senate voted 86-14 to pass the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 (NDAA 2011) - which allows for the indefinite military detention of American citizens without charge or trial - Montanans announced recall campaigns against Max Baucus and Jonathan Tester, who voted for the bill.

Montana is one of nine states with provisions for the right of recalling members of its federal congressional delegation.

The website Ballotpedia.org cites eight other states which allow for the recall of elected federal officials: Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wisconsin. New Jersey's federal recall law was struck down when a NJ state judge ruled that "the federal Constitution does not allow states the power to recall U.S. senators," despite the fact the Constitution explicitly allows - by not disallowing ("prohibited" in the Tenth Amendment) - the states the power to recall federal legislators.

The draft language of the Montana "reason for recall" reads:

1. "The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees all U.S. citizens: 'a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed...'
2. "NDAA 2011 permanently abolishes the Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial, 'for the duration of hostilities' in the War on Terror."
3. "Senators who voted Aye for NDAA 2011 have attempted to grant powers which cannot be granted, which violate

both the spirit and the letter of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence."

Montanans William Crain and Stewart Rhodes are spearheading the recall drive. Crain is an artist. Rhodes is an attorney, Yale Law School graduate, and the president of Oath Keepers, whose members are military and law enforcement officers, former and active duty, who vow to uphold their Oath to the US Constitution and to disobey illegal orders which constitute attacks on their fellow citizens. Rhodes said: "These politicians violated the oath they took to defend the Constitution. It's not about the left or right, it's about our Bill of Rights. Without the Bill of Rights, there is no America. It is the Crown Jewel of our Constitution, and the high-water mark of Western Civilization."

Rhodes noted that: "Two time Medal of Honor winner USMC General Smedley Butler said 'There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights.' Time to fight."

Butler famously ended his career as a Marine General by touring the country with his book denouncing war, *War is a Racket*. In it Butler confessed that he had spent most of his life as a "high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers...a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism..." [by invading various Latin American nations].

Rep. Justin Amash warned that NDAA Sections 1021 and 1022 were "carefully crafted to mislead the public" by allowing defenders to argue that the provisions do not apply to American citizens.

Rep. Tom McClintock opposed the bill on the House floor and

said: "[The NDAA] specifically affirms that the President has the authority to deny due process to any American it charges with 'substantially supporting al Qaeda, the Taliban or any 'associated forces'".

Would "substantial support" of an "associated force," mean linking a web-site to a web-site that links to a web-site affiliated with al-Qaeda? We don't know.

Section 1022 (b)(1) UNITED STATES CITIZENS states "The **requirement** to detain a person in military custody under this section does not extend to citizens of the United States."

However, although it is not "**required**" that US citizens be held in military detention, **it is nevertheless "allowed."**

Most worrisome, all accusations rest solely on the word of the government, with no witnesses, evidence, or any other form of due process.

--www.dailykos.com/story/2011/12/25/

R.I.P. Bill of Rights 1789-2011

By Mike Adams

One of the most extraordinary documents in human history -- the Bill of Rights -- has come to an end under President Barack Obama. Derived from sacred principles of natural law, the Bill of Rights has come to a sudden and catastrophic end with the President's signing of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), a law that grants the U.S. military the "legal" right to conduct secret kidnappings of U.S. citizens, followed by indefinite detention, interrogation, torture and even murder. This is all conducted completely outside the protection of law, with no jury, no trial, no legal representation and not even any

requirement that the government produce evidence against the accused.

Even while committing an act of pure treason in signing the bill, the unindicted criminal President Obama issued a signing statement that reads, in part, "Moving forward, my administration will interpret and implement the provisions described below in a manner that best preserves the flexibility on which our safety depends and upholds the values on which this country was founded..."

Anyone who reads between the lines realizes the "the flexibility on which our safety depends" means they can interpret the law in any way they want. Astute readers will also notice that Obama's signing statement **has no legal binding whatsoever** and only refers to Obama's *momentary intentions* on how he "wishes" to interpret the law. It does not place any limits whatsoever on how a future President might use the law as written.

"The statute is particularly dangerous because it has no temporal or geographic limitations, and can be used by this and future presidents to militarily detain people captured far from any battlefield," says the ACLU. Furthermore "...the breadth of the NDAA's detention authority violates international law because it is not limited to people captured in the context of an actual armed conflict as required by the laws of war" (<http://www.aclu.org/blog/national-s...>)

Given that the Bill of Rights is an extension of *Natural Law* which establishes a direct heritage of sovereign power from the Creator to the People, a blatant attack upon the Bill of Rights is, by any account, **an attack against the Creator** and a violation of universal spiritual principles. Those who attempt to undermine the Bill of Rights are attempting to invalidate the relationship between God and Man, and in doing so, they are identifying themselves as *enemies of God and agents of Evil*.

-- www.naturalnews.com Jan. 1, 2012

KUHNER: Obama's Watergate

A year ago this week, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was murdered, killed by weapons that were part of an illegal Obama administration operation to smuggle arms to Mexican drug cartels. This high crime potentially reaches all the way to the White House.

Operation Fast and Furious was run by the Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) which is overseen by Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. Fast and Furious enabled straw gun purchases from licensed dealers in Arizona; more than 2,000 weapons were smuggled to Mexican drug kingpins. ATF claims it was seeking to track the weapons as part of a crackdown on the growing violence in the Southwest. Instead, about 300 Mexicans have been killed by Fast and Furious weapons. More than 1,400 guns remain lost.

Such a vast operation only could have occurred with the full knowledge and consent of senior administration officials. Massive gun-running and smuggling is not carried out by low-level ATF bureaucrats unless there is authorization from the top. There is a systematic cover-up.

Led by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), a congressional probe is exposing the Justice Department's rampant criminality and deliberate stonewalling. Assistant AG Lanny A. Breuer, who heads the department's criminal division, denied ATF had ever walked guns into Mexico. Yet, the department later admitted that Breuer knew about ATF gun-smuggling as far back as April 2010. In other words, Mr. Breuer has been misleading Congress. He should resign - or be fired.

Instead, Mr. Holder tenaciously insists that Mr. Breuer will keep his job.

Former acting ATF Director Kenneth Melson oversaw Fast and Furious, including monitoring numerous straw purchases of AK-47s. He has admitted that he reassigned every "manager involved in Fast and Furious" after the scandal surfaced, essentially promoting them to cushy bureaucratic jobs. Their silence has been bought, their complicity swept under the rug. Mr. Melson has been transferred to Justice's main office, where he serves as a "senior adviser" on forensic science. Rather than being punished, Mr. Melson has been rewarded for his incompetence and criminal negligence.

Holder and his aides have given misleading, false and contradictory testimony on Capitol Hill. Perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power - these are high crimes and misdemeanors. Holder should be impeached. Like most liberals, he is playing the victim card, claiming Issa is a modern-day Joseph McCarthy conducting a judicial witch hunt.

Holder's out-of-control

Justice Department has violated the fundamental principle of our democracy, the rule of law. He refuses to prosecute the New Black Panthers for blatant voter intimidation in the 2008 election. Career Justice lawyers have confessed publicly that Holder will not pursue cases in which the perpetrators are black and the victims white. Arizona and Alabama are being sued for simply attempting to enforce federal immigration laws.

Holder clearly knew about Fast and Furious. The administration wanted to use the excuse of increased violence on the border and weapons-smuggling into Mexico to justify tighter gun-control legislation.

Holder may not be protecting just himself and his cronies. Is he protecting the president?
-- Jeffrey T. Kuhner, *Washington Times*, Dec. 15, 2011

"Czar" Obama

President Obama said Friday he will not be bound by at least 20 policy riders in the 2012 omnibus funding the government.

The White House released a concurrent signing statement saying Obama will object to portions of the omnibus legislation on constitutional grounds.

Signing statements are highly controversial, and their legality is disputed.

Obama objected to provisions in the bill that limit the president's ability to put troops under foreign command and require 30 days advance notice to Congress for any use of the military which would involve more than \$100,000 in construction costs.

The president also objected to a section aimed at blocking health, climate, auto policy and urban affairs "czars" from being employed by the White House and a provision that bars health officials from advocating for gun control.

The 1,200-page omnibus funds all parts of the federal government except for the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, as well as the science agencies. Those were funded by a smaller bill that passed Congress in November.

-- Erik Wasson, "Obama Says He's Not Bound by Guantanamo, Gun-control Provisions", *The Hill* 26 December 11

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. -- Mark Twain

How Freedom Group became the big shot

By Natasha Singer

In recent years, many top-selling brands - including 195-year-old Remington Arms, and Bushmaster Firearms and DPMS, leading makers of military-style semiautomatics - have passed into the hands of a private company called the Freedom Group - the most powerful and mysterious force in the American commercial gun industry today.

By its own count the Freedom Group sold 1.2 million rifles and shotguns and 2.6 billion rounds of ammunition in the year ending 2010. Cerberus Capital Management, a private investment company founded in 1992, through the Freedom Group, has assembled a remarkable arsenal beginning with Bushmaster; Remington, which traces its history to the days of flintlocks and today is supplying M24 sniper rifles and making handguns for the first time in decades; Marlin Firearms, which turned out a special model for Annie Oakley; Dakota Arms, a maker of high-end big-game rifles; and DPMS Firearms, a maker of military-style rifles, ammunition and tactical clothing.

Some gun enthusiasts have claimed that the power behind the company is George Soros, the billionaire liberal activist. Soros, these people have warned, is buying gun companies so he can dismantle the industry, Second Amendment be damned.

The chatter grew so loud that the National Rifle Association issued a statement in October denying the rumors.

"N.R.A. has had contact with officials from Cerberus and Freedom Group for some time," the N.R.A. assured its members. "The owners and investors involved are strong supporters of the Second Amendment and are avid hunters and shooters."

Bushmaster was among the first to sell ordinary people on weapons that look and feel like the ones carried by soldiers. Today many gun makers have embraced military-style weapons, a major but controversial source of growth for the commercial gun market, says Tom Diaz, a senior policy analyst at the Violence Policy Center, a research group that backs gun control.

Remington has been producing guns since 1816, when Eliphalet Remington made a flintlock rifle in his father's forge in Ilion Gulch, New York. In 2007 Remington was one

of the largest domestic maker of shotguns, rifles and ammunition.

Next, the Freedom Group went after DPMS; Marlin Firearms, a classic maker that came with two niche shotgun brands, Harrington & Richardson and L. C. Smith; and Dakota Arms. The Freedom Group also bought S&K industries, which supplies wood and laminate for gun stocks, as well as the Advanced Armament Corporation, which makes silencers. It acquired Barnes Bullets, which makes copper-jacketed bullets popular with precision shooters and police.

What is left? The Freedom Group does not own the Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation or Sturm, Ruger, both publicly traded. Nor does it own Colt's Manufacturing, which is privately owned. Cerberus also does not own Winchester Repeating Arms or Browning, both part of the Herstal Group of Belgium.

Still, the Freedom Group has ingested so many well-known brands so quickly that some gun owners are uneasy. Two years ago, a Cerberus managing director ran for the board of the N.R.A. Despite an endorsement from Remington he lost. His campaign didn't sit well with some gun bloggers, who viewed him as an industry interloper.

Many Americans are solidly behind the right to own guns. In a Gallup poll conducted in October, only 43 percent of respondents said they supported stricter gun laws - an all-time low since 1990. And 47 percent reported that there was a gun in their home or on their property, the highest since 1993.

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed a "right to carry" bill that would require states to recognize one another's permits to carry concealed weapons. If the bill passes the Senate, people in states with weaker concealed-weapon regulations would be able to carry concealed handguns into states like California, which requires extensive background checks.

In an industry with few independent players left, the big question is this: What is Freedom Group's long-term strategy? Because the company is private, outsiders can only speculate.

Some analysts say tactical rifles have peaked, that the market has topped out, and that small, concealable handguns are the way forward for the near future. And yet, after a tough 2010, gun sales at the Freedom Group were up 5.6 percent during the first nine months of this year, although the

company reported a net loss of \$6.3 million for the same time period, according to the company's most recent earnings report.

The issue is whether the Freedom Group can persuade more Americans to buy more guns.

-- New York Times, Nov. 26, 2011

Jurors Need to Know That They Can Say No

By Paul Butler

If you are ever on a jury in a marijuana case, I recommend that you vote "not guilty" — even if you think the defendant actually smoked pot, or sold it to another consenting adult. As a juror, you have this power under the Bill of Rights; if you exercise it, you become part of a proud tradition of American jurors who helped make our laws fairer.

The information I have just provided — about a constitutional doctrine called "jury nullification" — is absolutely true. But if federal prosecutors in New York get their way, telling the truth to potential jurors could result in a six-month prison sentence.

Earlier this year, prosecutors charged Julian P. Heicklen, a retired chemistry professor, with jury tampering because he stood outside the federal courthouse in Manhattan providing information about jury nullification to passers-by. Given that I have been recommending nullification for nonviolent drug cases since 1995 — in such forums as *The Yale Law Journal*, "60 Minutes" and YouTube — I guess I, too, have committed a crime.

The prosecutors who charged Heicklen said "advocacy of jury nullification, directed as it is to jurors, would be both criminal and without constitutional protections no matter where it occurred." The prosecutors are wrong. The First Amendment exists to protect speech like this — honest information that the government prefers citizens not know.

Laws against jury tampering are intended to deter people from threatening or intimidating jurors. To contort these laws to justify punishing Heicklen, whose court-appointed counsel describe him as "a shabby old man distributing his silly leaflets from the sidewalk outside a courthouse," is not only unconstitutional but unpatriotic. Jury nullification is not new; its proponents have included John Hancock and John Adams.

The doctrine is premised on the idea that ordinary citizens, not government officials, should have the final say as to whether a person should be punished. As Adams put it, it is each

juror's "duty" to vote based on his or her "own best understanding, judgment and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

In 1895, the Supreme Court ruled that jurors had no right, during trials, to be told about nullification. The court did not say that jurors didn't have the power, or couldn't be told about it, but only that judges were not required to instruct them on it during a trial. Since then, it's been up to scholars like me, and activists like Hecklen, to get the word out.

Nullification has been credited with helping to end alcohol prohibition and laws that criminalized gay sex. Last year, Montana prosecutors were forced to offer a defendant in a marijuana case a favorable plea bargain after so many potential jurors said they would nullify that the judge didn't think he could find enough jurors to hear the case. (Prosecutors now say they will consider whether to charge other people with marijuana crimes.)

There have been unfortunate instances of nullification. Racist juries in the South, for example, refused to convict people who committed violent acts against civil-rights activists, and nullification has been used in cases involving the use of excessive force by the police. But nullification is like any other democratic power; some people may try to misuse it, but that does not mean it should be taken away from everyone else.

How one feels about jury nullification ultimately depends on how much confidence one has in the jury system. Based on my experience, I trust jurors a lot. I first became interested in nullification when I prosecuted low-level drug crimes in Washington in 1990. Jurors, who were predominantly African-American, nullified regularly because they were concerned about racially selective enforcement of the law.

Across the country, crime has fallen, but incarceration rates remain at near record levels. Prosecutors tend to throw the book at defendants, to compel them to plead guilty in return for less harsh sentences. In some jurisdictions, like Washington, prosecutors have responded to jurors who are fed up with their draconian tactics by lobbying lawmakers to take away the right to a jury trial in drug cases. That is precisely the kind of power grab that the Constitution's framers were so concerned about.

In October, the Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, asked at a Senate hearing about the role of juries in checking governmental power, seemed open to the notion that jurors

"can ignore the law" if the law "is producing a terrible result." He added: "I'm a big fan of the jury." I'm a big fan, too. I would respectfully suggest that if the prosecutors in New York bring fair cases, they won't have to worry about jury nullification. Dropping the case against Hecklen would let citizens know that they are as committed to justice, and to free speech, as they are to locking people up.

-- Paul Butler, a former federal prosecutor, is a professor of law at George Washington University and the author of "Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice." - New York Times, Dec. 20, 2011

Cops take credit for crime stopped by armed citizen

NEWPORT NEWS-- Police in Newport News have charged a man with a string of robberies after the man showed up at a Portsmouth hospital with a gunshot wound.

Police say Martel Harris, a 21-year-old Carrollton resident, was apparently wounded when one of his victims opened fire with a concealed weapon.

Holly McPherson, spokeswoman for Newport News police, said the charges relate to three separate incidents.

When Harris pointed his gun at his third robbery victim, the man produced his own weapon and fired several shots.

Portsmouth police notified Newport News police that Harris had shown up at Maryview Hospital with a gunshot wound. McPherson credited "exceptional teamwork of the two police departments" with the identification and arrest of Harris.

-- www.dailypress.com Dec.21, 2011

One little .22 caliber bullet saves the day

MAGALIA -- A 29-year-old Magalia man with a prison record dating back to at least to 2003, was shot and killed Monday night after he allegedly forced his way into a home in the 15100 block of Jack Pine Way.

John Randolph Shanks III was pronounced dead in the home around 8 p.m.

The male resident of the home, who has yet to be identified, reportedly shot Shanks once in the chest with a .22-caliber handgun, according to Butte County sheriff's Sgt. Jason Hail.

No charges have been filed against the shooter.

-- www.chicoer.com, Dec. 20, 2011

What is Sustainable Development?

By Sid Preskitt

"Sustainable Development" is the United Nations' Agenda 21 "Plan For The 21st Century".

It is the UN plan to manage and control ALL human activity under Marxist/socialist principles.

Re-distribution of wealth is a built-in feature of it.

In practicality, it is a direct economic attack on the United States.

In fact, [rabid Canadian statist] Maurice Strong chaired the 1992 U.N. Earth Summit in where Agenda 21 was introduced. He was quoted saying that it was their responsibility to bring about the collapse of the industrialized countries.

It has been incorporated into federal policy by Executive Orders starting with #12982 in 1994 and continuing this year creating the Rural and Ocean Councils.

It is the primary reason why we can't meet our energy needs from our vast natural resources whether it be petroleum, coal or timber.

It is the reason why

- * the vital Keystone Pipeline project is being opposed.

- * we export almost \$1 trillion annually buying imported oil when we have proven reserves totaling more than all the mid-east countries combined.

- * Americans are exhorted to cut back energy use to 1990s levels further crippling the economy while China and other countries are exempt. All based on a fraudulent premise put forth by the U.N. IPCC.

- * over 600 local U.S. governments are dues paying members of ICLEI which directs the local implementation of Agenda 21 and other U.N. policies that Congress never approved. (see: ICLEI.org)

- * the Secretary of Transportation announced that promoting motorized transportation is no longer their priority.

- * our seafood production is severely restricted with only limited access allowed to abundant marine resources.

- * some of the most productive areas of the oceans around the coast are being closed off in "Marine Protected Areas"

- * NOAA Director, Dr. Jane Lubchenco has made implementing Agenda 21's Catch Share allocation system in every American fishery a top priority. In New England and Florida fishermen are out of work and the Governor of Massachusetts has declared an economic disaster with a request for \$21 million in federal aid. Dr. Lubchenco's

response was asking for \$54 million more to expand the program.

* we import 84% of our seafood and export (re-distribute) nearly \$11 billion to foreign countries like China and Vietnam in a seafood trade deficit.

* our manufacturing base has moved to foreign countries starting with NAFTA which had the goal of "promoting Sustainable Development".

* the Federal, State and local governments have been buying land in an effort to create the "system of protected areas" called for in the un-ratified U.N. Agenda 21 treaty.

* the U.S. Senate refused to even vote on the treaty when maps of The Wildlands Project were displayed on the floor of the Senate. The stated goal is "50% of the land in Core Wilderness areas with little or no human use" interconnected with Wildlife Corridors surrounded with Buffer Zones

* why Volusia County, Florida owns approximately 40% of the land in the County creating a "Conservation Corridor".

When you put it all together it is a primary reason for the collapse of the American economy just as U.N. official, Maurice Strong wanted in 1993 when it all started.

Now, what are we going to do about it?

-- bearwitnesscentral.org, Dec. 21, 2011

Ronald Reagan: gun controller, NRA member, massive tax increaser

The Mulford Act was a 1967 California bill prohibiting the public carrying of loaded firearms. The bill garnered national attention after the Black Panthers marched on the California Capitol to protest the bill. The bill was signed by California Governor Ronald Reagan. -- Wikipedia

* * *

*Reagan supported and signed a 15-day waiting period when he was governor of California. He then blamed it on the Democrats.

*Reagan supported and signed a law "prohibiting the carrying of loaded firearms on one's person or in a vehicle, in any public place or on any public street." The law was aimed at stopping the Black Panthers after their march on the California State Capitol, but affected all gun owners. He then blamed it on the Democrats.

*Reagan supported and signed a ban on the transfer of new manufacture fully automatic firearms while president and blamed it on the Democrats.

*Reagan vocally supported the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban after his presidency in the early 90s. Which were then blamed on the Democrats. -- <http://freethoughtwiki.com>

* * *

President Reagan, the owner of an AR-15, was a strong and consistent supporter of the Second Amendment and the NRA. He was a long time member, joining NRA in December of 1972 and upgrading to Life Member in August of 1979. He actively courted the NRA's endorsement in both of his presidential campaigns, and was the first presidential candidate in history to receive that endorsement. He appeared on the cover of NRA magazines four times. In 1983 he was offered, and accepted, an NRA Honorary Life Membership, the highest honor bestowed by the NRA. -- <http://www.nraila.org/Issues/6/14/2004>

* * *

The "60 Minutes" interview with House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) on New Year's Day has generated a great deal of attention in the blogosphere. ThinkProgress jumped on it immediately, noting that President Reagan did not "compromise" [by raising taxes] just this once, but actually increased taxes "in seven of his eight years in office, including one stretch of four tax increases in just two years." The site quoted Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman, noting that "no peacetime president has raised taxes so much on so many people."

The Washington Monthly's Steve Benen pitched in with his observation that the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, which was Reagan's biggest tax hike, is today "generally considered the largest tax increase - as a percentage of the economy - in modern American history."

Moreover, says Benen, "between 1982 and 1984, Reagan raised taxes four times, and as Bruce Bartlett has explained more than once, Reagan raised taxes 12 times during his eight years in office."

Benen believes that President Reagan's [alleged anti-tax] legacy makes contemporary conservatives "look ridiculous." On MSNBC's "The Ed Show," Washington *Post* columnist Ezra Klein took a stab at explaining why this must be the case, noting that the grand poobah behind the "Reagan Legacy Project," and so much right-wing political thinking and organizing today, is Grover Norquist, who "has a vested interest in promoting the myth of 'Saint Ronnie the Tax Slayer' to justify his 'no new taxes ever' ideology. -- "Conservatives Prefer

Reagan Fantasies to Reality", Center for American Progress, 09 Jan 12

Gun Review: Chiappa Arms' Rhino 200DS

The Rhino revolver is unique in that it fires from the BOTTOM cylinder. The barrel is much lower on the frame. Consequently the muzzle flip is miniscule, even with full power .357 magnums fired with one hand! The felt recoil is also mild, thanks to the angle of the grips and the direction of the recoil.

The gun is unexpectedly light, as virtually everyone who has picked up one of my 2 inch Rhino snubbies has remarked.

The grips are very comfortable and the gun comes up to a natural point-of-aim. To keep the gun slender, the cylinder has flattened sides where each chamber is located.

The double-action trigger is smooth, but long and a little heavy; the single-action trigger is excellent.

Instead of a visible hammer, there is a "cocking lever." All it does is cock the gun and then returns to its forward position. To remind the shooter that the gun is cocked and has a light trigger, an orange rod pops up slightly above the frame. The trigger is also placed in a tell-tale rearward position.

Pushing down on the cylinder latch opens the cylinder. It is a very natural and comfortable motion.

Because the gun shoots out of the lower cylinder, there are a couple of important things to keep in mind:

- You should NOT do a "thumb forward hold" (weak hand thumb in front of the strong-hand thumb) as you do NOT want any part of your hand to be next to the cylinder gap. The blast sideways from the Rhino is guaranteed to get your attention. I always place both thumbs side-by-side or one-over-the-other.

- To fire a single round the gun should be placed at the 5 O'clock position and not 11 O'clock (as for a conventional revolver with a clockwise turning cylinder).

The Rhino holds six-shots of .357 Magnum or .38 Special (.40 S&W and 9mm will be available in the future), with a 2, 4, 5, or 6 inch barrel. The barrels have a tall rib to make up for the low position of the barrel on the frame.

The cylinder, barrel insert, and the part of the frame directly behind the cylinder are made of steel; the frame is an aluminum alloy. The

steel should give the revolver a longer life than other light-frame revolvers.

The snubby comes with a pancake holster.

Some think the gun is ugly, but others, like me, think it looks pretty cool and futuristic.

The Rhino has either a black or a brushed nickel finish (called a White Rhino). The snubby has a street value of around \$700-\$800, but it is an excellent gun for those who like the reliability of a revolver for self-defense and/or want a fun gun for a day at the range.

-- A Virginian 12/27/2011

Tax return blues

The IRS rejected my return AGAIN. All I did was "list all dependents".

*12 million illegal immigrants

* 3 million crack heads;

*42 million people on food stamps;

* 2 million people in prisons and jails;

*half of Mexico ;

*bureaucrats that do nothing but make everyone's life miserable;

*535 freeloaders in the U.S. House and Senate;

*the biggest freeloader of all in the White House;

*not to mention his wife who takes Boeing 757's on vacations loaded with her friends, while her husband tags along in a Boeing 747....

National Park Service has new land-grabbing tool

By Ron Arnold

Big Green has a new sales pitch to convince Congress to fund land grabs by the National Park Service -- wildlife migration. A map of all the U.S. wildlife migration paths would blot out nearly half the nation.

The well-heeled Wildlife Conservation Society (2010 assets \$764 million) unveiled the idea last week in "Spectacular Migrations in the Western U.S.," a 45-page report on the purportedly urgent need for a network of wildlife migration corridors to avert countless extinctions.

The WCS is a consortium of zoos ("urban wildlife parks") and global conservation programs that uses

science to "change attitudes towards nature." Its Spectacular Migrations report looks suspiciously like the agenda of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, the NPS's boss.

National parks can legally swallow up federal lands as well as private property. Some contain wilderness, recreation areas, historic sites, scenic highways and more, all within one big boundary known as Big Park.

"Connectivity corridors" such as migration paths are perfect for drawing lines between a number of protected areas, then drawing a single boundary line around the whole group.

Property owners and hunters are already taking to the email grapevine with alarms over the WCS report. The NPS is notoriously hostile to both groups.

One of the report's authors, Keith Aune, a Montana-based WCS scientist, evoked the bison to make the point, "Long-distance migrations as a whole are rapidly disappearing." But there is no mention that his employer promotes programs that could cost property owners their land and hunters their access.

Aune said, "We have to have something the public can grasp. Spectacular migrations have great storytelling power."

Although Spectacular Migrations covers only the West, the idea would be perfectly at home in the East. Its related concept -- land bundling -- is already at work in West Virginia.

A local green group is campaigning to create a High Allegheny National Park by bundling pieces of a national forest, two wilderness areas, several civil war sites, portions of a national scenic byway and a substantial amount of private property - Big Park. Migration corridors would easily fit in.

The High Allegheny idea gained traction when Sen. Joe Manchin, D-WVa, asked the NPS to perform a reconnaissance survey.

Instantly, the West Virginia Outdoors News took him to task for spearheading "a potential threat to thousands of acres of hunting land and

hundreds of miles of fishing streams."

Manchin responded last week that as an avid hunter himself he would never support anything that might impair the hunting and fishing tradition.

Emphasizing the economic benefits of national park tourism, he promised he would block any High Allegheny park bill without "ironclad protections" for hunting and fishing.

Outdoorsmen were not impressed. They've seen too many places put off limits. And it's still possible that wildlife migration corridors will creep into the High Allegheny proposal. -- Ron Arnold is executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise -- <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/2011/12/>

Letter to the editor

To whom it may concern,

Overall I found your newsletter very informative. The ATF's Fast and Furious was completely unknown to me. Sitting through all the propaganda on CNN is not a worth the tiny pieces of truth so I tend to miss some current events.

One article struck me as irrelevant however. Why Islam is taking over America, especially since it was on the front page, really left a bad taste in my mouth. As someone who has spent a considerable amount of time looking into 9-11 I can say with certainty that our concern should be with our own gov't as the culprit, not some cave-dwelling Muslims. An article titled "why fascism is taking over America" would be more fitting.

Besides that though I thought it was very well done.

State prisoner (so identified to forestall reprisals)

Ed.: We don't necessarily agree totally with everything we print. It's up to the reader to make up his own mind. However, with regard to Islam, a recent RAND Corporation study reports that there have been 46 "home grown terrorist" incidents in the U.S. since 2001. Presumably the Muslims involved want Islam to take over America. Even though fascism may pose a greater danger the militia must be aware of all threats.

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ISSN 1523-4657

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